

of using the transformant to produce protein, classified in class 536, subclasses 23.1 and 23.5, class 435, subclasses 320.1, 325, 252.3 and 69.1;

Group II (Claim 6), drawn to a method of inhibiting transcription of an IgA nephropathy-related gene or translation of mRNA of an IgA nephropathy-related gene, classified in class 514, subclass 44;

Group III (Claim 8), drawn to a method for isolating a DNA related to IgA nephropathy from leukocytes, classified in class 435, subclass 6, for example;

Group IV (Claim 9), drawn to a protein having activity related to IgA nephropathy, classified in class 530, subclass 350; and

Group V (Claims 14-17, 20 and 21), drawn to an antibody, and a method for immunoassay, classified in class 530, subclass 386, and class 435, subclass 7.1.

The Examiner previously imposed the same restriction requirement by telephone, in response to which Applicants provisionally elected to prosecute the invention of Group I. However, the Examiner has re-imposed the restriction requirement asking that Applicants make a written response since a sequence letter is also being sent.

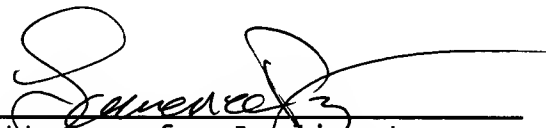
In response, Applicants again elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely Claims 1-5, 7, 10-13, 18 and 19). However, Applicants respectfully wish to point out to the Examiner the Commissioner's Official Gazette Notice of March 4, 1996 "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims" which addresses the issue of processes "limited to

making or using a nonobvious product" and stated that claims to the nonelected process should be rejoined when a product claim is found allowable and the withdrawn process contains all the limitations of an allowed product claim.

Accordingly, rejoinder of claim 6, for instance, (and claim 8 if amended to depend from an elected claim) is respectfully requested upon allowance of an antecedent elected claim.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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